
APPENDIX C

FWQG CONSISTENCY GUIDELINES



-
-
1. Determine which FWQG are applicable to the site.
 2. Evaluate the entire timber sale.
 3. Evaluate the site for FWQG application and effectiveness only. Remember, we are evaluating FWQG that may impact water quality and other soil and water resources. We are not evaluating aesthetics.
 4. Rate only the activity or FWQG that you can see (i.e. we are not rating fault. Rather, we are rating existing conditions).
 5. When rating for roads, audit only the portion of the road that has been installed or reconstructed solely for the purpose of the timber sale.
 6. Complete a timber sale inspection report and a FWQG Evaluation & Monitoring Field Audit Worksheet for each timber sale as part of routine follow-up with the landowner and/or operator.
 7. There are a maximum of 76 practices to evaluate and rate for each site. The application rating is based upon a 5-point scale. The effectiveness rating is based upon a 6-point scale.

Application

The application rating measures whether the FWQG has been applied, whether it has been applied correctly and whether it has been applied in the proper location. Rate FWQG application by first identifying if the FWQG is applicable to the site. If so, determine if it was applied to the correct technical standard, at the correct frequency and in the proper location. The rating guide for FWQG application is:

- 5 - Operation exceeds FWQG
- 4 - Operation meets FWQG
- 3 - Minor departure from FWQG
- 2 - Major departure from FWQG
- 1 - Gross neglect of FWQG

Note: Lack of adequate application or mis-application are considered departures from the FWQG.

Ratings 5 and 4 are self-explanatory. A rating of 3, minor departure, applies to departures of small magnitude distributed over a localized area, or over a larger area where the potential for impact is low. A rating of 2, major departure, applies to departures of large magnitude or to FWQGs being repeatedly neglected. A rating of 1, gross neglect, applies where risks to soil and water resources are obvious while there is no evidence indicating that operators applied the FWQG.

Effectiveness

The effectiveness rating serves as an “impact” indicator, and qualitatively evaluates how well the FWQGs protect soil and water resources within a single point-in-time reference. Rate FWQG effectiveness to determine how well the application of the applied FWQG is performing. For example, has the application or lack thereof of a particular FWQG increased (or decreased) the likelihood of sediment delivery to a stream? The rating guide for FWQG effectiveness is:

- 6 - Improved protection of soil & water resources
- 5 - Adequate protection of soil & water resources
- 4 - Minor and temporary impacts on soil & water resources
- 3 - Minor and prolonged impacts on soil & water resources
- 2 - Major and temporary impacts on soil & water resources
- 1 - Major and prolonged impacts on soil & water resources

Note: Lack of effectiveness results in impacts.

In addition, the following terms and definitions apply to application and effectiveness rating:

- Adequate:** small amount of material eroded; material does not reach drainages, streams, lakes or other bodies of water.
- Minor:** small impact potential; some erosion occurs, but delivery of material to water resources is not clearly evident.
- Major:** large impact potential; eroded material is clearly being delivered to water resources.
- Temporary:** generally, impacts lasting less than one year or no more than one runoff season.
- Prolonged:** generally, impacts lasting more than one year.

In some cases, a FWQG may not apply (i.e. no stream crossings, no new road construction, slash disposal not complete. Also, water quality impacts may occur not resulting directly from harvesting activity. For example, grazing and road use for purposes other than hauling logs can cause difficulties with rating applicable FWQGs. In these situations, please make a note on the form. In cases where the FWQG does not apply, make a note on the form and do not rate.